

**Public Statement from N.D. Department of Human Services
Regarding Medicaid Fraud and Abuse Performance Audit**

October 25, 2010

[For further information, please contact the Department.](#)

- The auditor did not find any Medicaid fraud or abuse in the course of their review.
- They did, however, recommend that we be more proactive in tracking for fraud and abuse, and we are fully committed to implementing that recommendation.
- The N.D. Department of Human Services has a Surveillance and Utilization Review Unit, which consists of an administrator and staff, as well as medical coders, nurses, a pharmacist and other professionals who work to identify unusual billing patterns that could indicate suspected fraud or provider abuse.
 - **Formerly, such findings were referred to:** the federal Office of Inspector General (OIG) in Fargo, but that office has since been eliminated by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.
 - The appropriate medical boards and the state's Bureau of Criminal Investigation (BCI) **were also notified** for further investigation.
- Now, when the unit has evidence of suspected Medicaid fraud or abuse, the matter will be referred to the OIG in Kansas City, as well as medical boards, BCI, the local state's attorney and/or the U.S. Attorney for North Dakota, as appropriate, for further investigation.
- The federal government also applies additional layers of oversight through the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) Payment Error Reimbursement Measurement program and CMS Medicaid Integrity Contractors.
- Department staff have received training and are dedicated to the task of maintaining the integrity of the Medicaid system in North Dakota, but we also believe there is always room for improvement.
- We will therefore continue to provide our staff with more training and, as the auditor suggested, have them secure the recommended certification.
- We are all committed, on every level, to ensuring the integrity, fairness and quality of care we provide in the administration of North Dakota's Medicaid program.
- We appreciate the constructive recommendations from the auditor to improve our performance and are already taking action to implement recommendations that fall within the agency's scope of responsibility.